A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CYTOLOGY SOCIETIES

O.A.N. Husain

The Federation came into existence through the inspiration of that great European cytologist Professor Paul Lopez Cardozo of Leiden. He, as President, with Professor A.L.C. Schmidt as Secretary of the Dutch Society of Clinical Cytology invited 60 leading cytologists in Europe to attend a Symposium on Clinical Cytology at the Dijkzigt Hospital, Rotterdam in October 1967 to consider the founding of a European Society.

Professor P.L. Cardozo

For some 2 years the matter of a European Society was discussed by the National Societies, and it was in 1969 that Dr Jacques Jenny took the further initiative to invite a number of senior cytologists in Europe to the joint meeting of the three German-speaking Societies of Germany, Austria and Switzerland — at Sils Maria — to further the project. The development of the Federation was taken forward by Dr Jenny and Dr N Husain who composed the proposed Statutes of the European Federation. These were presented to the meeting attended by two representatives from each of 14 countries the next day. These Statutes created a Council consisting of a President (of the host country), a Pro-President and a Past President, two Treasurers — one for the East and one for the West, as there was no money exchange — and a Secretary General. The last three were each for 3 years with an electable second term. In addition two represent-atives were nominated by each National Society which joined the Federation.
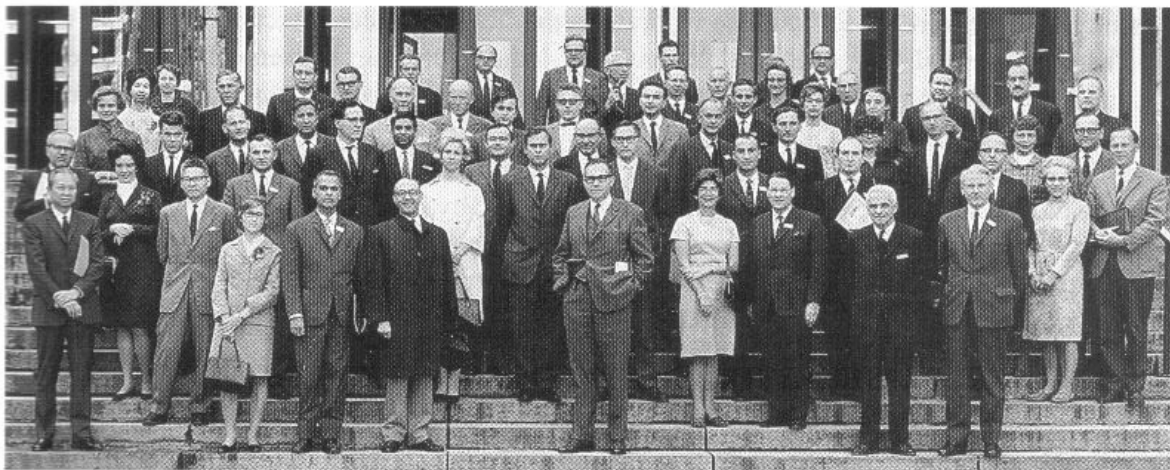

Dr J. Jenny

As there were only five Eastern-bloc countries able to join and 15 in the West, it was decided to alternate meetings between East and West, so as to give the former a preferential frequency, as many of those in the East could not easily get visas or finance to come to the West. In years when the International Academy of Cytology met in Europe there was no meeting of the EFCS but a Tutorial was held in an Eastern bloc country.

EFCS Meeting, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 1968